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Dordt College 31 January 2013 Issue 7

Erik Hoekstra: Leader, President, Friend

**Adam McDonald
Head Editor**

Sitting in his brightly lit office, newly appointed president of Dordt College Erik Hoekstra leans back in his chair, staring out at the snow-covered plains, optimistic about his new position and the future of Dordt College.

“I’ve spent most of the fall and spring semester meeting and listening to Dordt students and faculty and broader community and alumni and churches,” said President Hoekstra. “I did 24 ‘Meet the President’ events in the fall. From Florida to Texas to Ontario to Michigan and California, I’m just going out and listening and speaking to these groups to tell about the good story of what is happening here.”

And when Hoekstra talks about “the good story” he means the college itself. According to Hoekstra, the college currently has its fifth largest enrollment ever, and Hoekstra wants to keep that momentum going.

“I believe it’s important to continue to grow the enrollment primarily because we do a good job preparing students to work effectively for Christ-centered renewal,” Hoekstra said. “So if we do a good job at that, wouldn’t we want more students to have that?”

Hoekstra has been working with the faculty and academic leadership teams in order to come up with plans to continue to grow enrollment. Hoekstra plans to continue programs that have the highest student involvement while starting a few new programs such as

Construction Management and Worship Arts. His biggest asset and strategy right now, however, is simply listening.

“I don’t want to assume that since I was provost for the last four years that I understand what this job is. I want to spend this year not just treading water, but doing a lot of listening,” Hoekstra said.

Another task he must accomplish is finding a new Provost and a head of admissions department since the current head; Quentin Van Essen, has decided to retire. Hoekstra says that this year is geared toward getting those two positions taken care of.

A few more changes that have been happening are the remodeling and switching of the alumni house and president’s house. The houses will be switched and Hoekstra is thrilled about the change.

“The Board, before I was president, approved an addition for the old president’s home,” said Hoekstra. He then mentioned to the board about the possibility of having the president’s house becoming the new alumni house, and vice versa. Hoekstra is thrilled about the switch because he is now able to be even more involved on campus and can get to know more students.

“I’m eager to have students stop by and talk to me. If I plop down at the commons and have lunch with you, don’t be surprised if I don’t remember your name the first time or second time,” said Hoekstra. “My goal is that by the time you get your diploma and graduate, I’ll know every student. Don’t leave college saying, ‘Gosh I didn’t know the president.’”



Dordt College President Erik Hoekstra

Hoekstra’s passion for getting to know people and serving others began back in high school when he created his own landscaping company. Growing up in Chicago, Hoekstra always wanted to go to a Christian college, so he decided to go to Trinity College to continue managing his landscaping business while working toward a degree in history and philosophy in preparation for seminary.

“When my wife and I got married during the summer between junior and senior year, she thought she was marrying a pastor, but during the middle of my senior year I said, ‘I’m not ready for seminary yet God’ and He seemed to be ok with this,” Hoekstra said. “I thought I would go back, but I decided to formally go into business.”

After Trinity, Hoekstra received his International Masters of Business in the Netherlands, worked in Michigan for a few years, began teaching business at Dordt in 1997, left that position to run another business in Sioux Center for eight years, and then returned Dordt as the Provost.

“I believe that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. I’ve been a faculty member here and a lifetime member of the Christian Reformed Church and believe that the biblical narrative is the ultimate authority,” Hoekstra said.

Hoekstra continued to say that at his inauguration, he was able to sit down and talk to the second president of Dordt College, John Hulst, and gain more insight and words of encouragement.

“He (Hulst) said that when he left the Presidency in 1995, the Board talked to him about if the next president should be a pastor, and at that point it wasn’t a requirement. Hulst reflected on it and said to me, ‘Erik, we would say that we were sure that the mission of Dordt as a Christian institution was vested in lots of people when we would have the confidence to make the president not a clergy. People should be encouraged to say that the vision of Dordt College is in our bones now rather than the (president alone),’” said Hoekstra.

Hoekstra said that he has been honored and humbled by that statement. “No man can be president on his own. President Zylstra built a team around him. I’ll build a team around me.”

Day of Encouragement comes to Dordt College

**Lauren Bird
Staff Writer**

As a student, encouragement can be crucial to surviving college life. Luckily, that’s just what a group of church leaders and members will be providing this Saturday, February 2, at Day of Encouragement.

Dr. Thor Swanson, assistant pastor at Friendship Community Christian Reformed Church in Sergeant Bluff, will be the keynote

speaker at this year’s Day of Encouragement. Over the course of the Saturday, 25 breakout sessions will occur, each featuring a different speaker.

Started nine years ago, this day is an opportunity for students and community members to learn about different aspects of the church. Session topics include leadership, youth ministries, service projects, and other aspects of

the daily work of churches. Dr. Swanson will be focusing on Psalm 137 and share his struggles with juvenile diabetes and cancer in his opening address.

“This is a good way for Dordt to reach out to churches and community members,” said Wes Fopma, director of Alumni and Church Relations at Dordt and the head organizer for Day of Encouragement. Both college students and

community members are encouraged to attend.

“Speakers from churches within a 60-mile radius will be speaking in sessions,” said Fopma. Not only are these speakers pastors or ministers, but they are also worship leaders, care givers, deacons, and church members. Some speakers include Aaron Baart, Jon De Groot, Karen DeMol, and Syd Hielema.

Day of Encouragement’s

schedule will start with registration at 7:30 a.m. in the B.J. Haan. At 8:30 a.m. opening devotions and worship will be given, followed by Dr. Swanson’s opening address. Participants then attend breakout sessions throughout the day until 3:45 p.m., when a closing worship and meditation will take place.

Snow sculpting competition: let it snow



Amber Vis
Staff Writer

Dordt College will hold its first annual Prairie Grass Snow Sculpting Competition on Thursday, February 7. According to Digital media Professor

Mark Volkers, “The Prairie Grass Film Challenge executive committee came up with the idea one-and-a-half years ago, and we rolled it out last year.” However, since there was

no snow last year, the committee was forced to cancel its plans. The committee is trying again this year, but the competition can only be held if there is enough snow.

Volkers also mentioned that the executive committee’s goal is to label February as a celebration of the vision, and eventually have a Prairie Grass 48-Hour competition each weekend in February. He added, “We’ll continue rolling out completely different challenges ‘till all the weekends are full. We would love the Snow Sculpting Competition to grow and become an annual event that Dordt and the surrounding area looks forward to, just like the Prairie Grass Film Challenge.”

Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated with our Prairie Grass Snow Challenge rollout yet!

If the weather does cooperate, however, the event will take place in the garden bed between the B.J. Haan Auditorium and the Kuyper Apartments. Each team will be given a four-foot cube of snow provided by the college. They will

then have 48 hours to complete their masterpiece. The event begins at 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 7, and the sculpting will end at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 9. The college will even have lights set up so that the sculptors can work day and night.

According to Assistant Professor of Art Matt Drissel, “Most snow sculpting competitions use snow-making equipment, but we do not have access to that kind of machinery; thus we hope for just the right conditions.” Drissel will be constructing the cubes with some sculpture students. He added, “I would gladly welcome volunteers who could help scoop and stomp down snow into a 4 x 4 x 4’ box!”

“The contestants can use any tools they would like as long as they are responsible for them and if they are not electric,” Drissel said. A set of tools could include a snow shovel, a snow scoop, a straight edge ice scraper, a ladder, or scaffolding. The only materials allowed are snow, ice, and water. After the competition, each team’s masterpiece will be left to melt, so viewers

are encouraged to see them while they have the chance.

Students may be afraid that they aren’t artistic enough or that this competition is really only for art majors. However, Volkers assures that “This competition and the film challenge are designed so that anyone can enter. It’s a celebration of the arts, and while it’s a friendly competition, we also want to encourage first timers to get out and give it a try, whether that be snow sculpting or film making.”

Only 10 teams are allowed to compete due to the size of the sculptures and the amount of room available. Teams will be created with preference given to college participants, and a drawing must be submitted of the sculpture they want to create.

First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded by the official event judge. Winners will receive engraved trophies. Official rules and details can be found at www.dordt.edu/snow_challenge.

En garde, touche, and the such

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

So there you are, sitting on your couch after another night of eating in the Commons, feeling full of greasy food, shame, and regret. Maybe your roommate just left the room a mess . . . again. Or maybe you just had a fight with your significant other. Or maybe you just have too much homework. In any case, you have the need for a productive way to take your frustration out on somebody while using French diction. Fencing to the rescue!

The chances that any more than a select few students have every actually fenced is slim to none. Luckily, that no longer needs to be the case. Due to the efforts of Dordt sophomore Ehren Falk, anybody on Dordt’s campus can now enjoy the magnificence of poking their peers with a pointy sword.

With the beginning of a new semester and a new

year, Dordt also has the beginnings of a brand new fencing club on campus. The club meets every Monday night from 8:00 – 9:30 in the aerobics room of the Rec Center and, according to Falk, the club will “teach and practice the basics of fencing and actually fence with one another.” The club is open to anyone and everyone. And even though Falk doesn’t necessarily expect that everyone will be interested, he sees fencing as an activity that “very few people have had an opportunity to try” and hopes that “some people [will] find it intriguing enough to give it a shot.”



Photo by Shelby Herrma

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THAT’S AMOR!

Students share about their experiences during life changing mission trips



Kristina Heflin
Staff Writer

More than two dozen Dordt students participated in the educational service project known as AMOR (A Mission Out-Reach) over the Christmas break. Two teams of students left Dordt on January 4, one headed for Jamaica, the other for central Brazil. In just one week, these students would experience a different way of life, discover hidden opportunities, and share the love of Christ

with a foreign culture. “It was really a two-fold trip,” said Brazil trip advisor and Dordt Professor of agriculture, Gary DeVries. “It was a chance for us to evaluate how they’re expanding agriculture in Brazil, and it let us look into a new place to develop connections.” The trip to Brazil was the first of its kind for Dordt College. Through connections with a Dutch colony in the southern area of the country, DeVries oversaw arrangements for the group to stay at a

local farm. From there, the students spent extensive time observing the agricultural practices of the area, as well as visiting the township near the farm. During their trips into the town, the students visited the local hospital and elementary school. It was there, at the school’s gymnasium, that the students conducted their service project. A bus from the farm brought the local children and their families to the gym for a day of playing soccer with the

Dordt students. Liz Boender, a Dordt sophomore and the only female student on the Brazil trip, had an especially unique experience with the local children. “I got swarmed by the younger kids, and they were all talking to me in Portuguese; I think they were trying to get my name,” said Boender. “It was slow going at first on my part, then they started asking me questions through the interpreter, and pointing at things and telling me what they were in Portuguese, and telling me a little about their families.”

When the games were finished, each family received a “Mission Ball,” a soccer ball with the testimony of grace-based salvation described in Portuguese on the various panels. The message was explained by the students, and then translated by the group’s interpreters. “It was great that they were college students because we could relate to them and form relationships faster,” said Brett Leyendekker, a student services staff member on the Brazil trip. “We [the group] really bonded...the dynamics were great. We weren’t too similar.”

On the Jamaica trip,

the students also worked closely with local children. They hosted a vacation Bible school each night of the week, concluding their activities with a jamboree that was attended by more than 150 locals. The vacation bible school curriculum was designed by Alexa Groen and Kelsey De Kam, both elementary education majors, and was overseen by Elson Schut, the adult supervisor for the trip. “VBS was really awesome and it was crazy at times,” said Joy Roelofs, an agriculture major on the Jamaica trip. “You get to make new Dordt friends and hang out with little kids, which is awesome because they’re always fun.” In the end, the students felt that, beyond a cross-cultural fulfillment or travel opportunity, the trips were all about discovering new ways to serve God. “It was the experience of a lifetime, said sophomore Jenna Peterson. “I’d never been on a mission trip before. It was definitely an exercise in trusting and giving it all to God...trusting that He knows what is going on and is working for the good of His will.”



Features

Ready for the Real World

Seniors talk about their hopes and dreams after life at Dordt College

Hannah DeVries
Co-Editor

College. Four years of your life that could be absolutely anything. Four years that have the potential to be the most challenging, stressful, rewarding, mind numbing, pulse-thrilling years of your entire life. Of course, there are memories that come before the college years, but that eighth grade history day project and your junior prom will probably be outshone by four of the most eventful years of your life.

But why listen to someone who's only a sophomore? Seniors Hannah Hart and Nathan Friend already have one foot in the real world, but their stories would not be complete without their time at Dordt College.

Coming to Dordt from Urbandale, Iowa not knowing anyone was intimidating for Hannah Hart as a freshman. Sure, she knew her older brother, but moving into West Hall without a familiar face to welcome her was somewhat frightening, to say the least.

But all that changed when one warm-hearted RA welcomed her in. "Wendy Gomez was my RA, and the best one to have," Hart remembered with a smile.

And it wasn't just her RA that made her feel at home. "Not only Wendy, but my whole wing was close,"

"I'm still incredibly close to these same people nearly four years later."
- Nathan Friend

said Hart. "She encouraged us to be a real community, to open our doors; it was a community that was carried into the commons even when we ate."

Choosing a major was a slightly more difficult process for Hart. Accounting was the obvious first choice, for its practicality and marketability, but Hart knew that her passions truly laid with English.

However, when she switched her major to English, she still wasn't completely satisfied. "I loved to read and to write," Hart said, "but when my parents asked me the hard questions about what was really practical, I realized you can have these passions and loves, and pursue them, but you don't have to have them as your major."

Despite how much the decision upset her, Hart switched her major back to accounting. In the end, she realized that business also held a piece of her heart, and even though she didn't feel excited switching her major back to accounting, "I felt

at peace about it."

For Nathan Friend, the decision to come to Dordt was one easily made. "It's my family's college," he said, a fact that made college selection much easier. "Coming to Dordt was the path of least resistance," he said simply. But once the choice of college was made, the path of least resistance quickly ran out.

Knowing only that he liked math made choosing a major difficult, but it helped, he remembered humorously, when "I very quickly realized that playing around with concrete was not my dream career."

This prompted a switch in majors to Computer Engineering, and after a programming for engineers class he officially switched his major to Computer Science, and, he says, "I haven't had second thoughts about the switch since."

Friend realized that he found himself in a good group early on in his first semester.

"You can have community with anyone, in your neighborhood and at work, and even when it's not explicitly with Christian people."
- Hannah Hart

"I'm still incredibly close to these same people nearly four years later," he said. "They're all ridiculously smart and talented people – it was a humbling experience to spend time with them, and good for



Senior Nathan Friend

me –witnessing the intelligence and work ethic displayed by friends helped me gain valuable perspective of myself."

He also remembers De Roo's CORE 200 class standing out as a shaping moment in his life. "His rational, humorous, slightly cynical, and relatable look at philosophy opened my eyes to hypocrisies and inconsistencies in my own life; if there was a class that will have prepared me more than any at Dordt to enter the real world, it's that one."

These are the moments and experiences that have built a foundation for these seniors' lives after Dordt.

Friend titled his last semester at Dordt "Job Search," but hasn't found it difficult to find future employers, knowing that his own experience of turning down future employees is not something most college graduates have the luxury to do.

"I owe it all to my field of study," Friend said. "The job market is incredibly hot for anyone that can do any kind of computer programming. One of the most exciting experiences I've had was a recent interview in Seattle with Amazon for a software development position with their Ordering team."

This gives him confidence in the future, even though he isn't entirely sure where his future job lies. "I feel confident in my knowledge and experience leaving Dordt – my work

for Computer Services and a variety of other places, combined with several invaluable CMSC courses, has given me a great head-start in the industry," Friend said. This, and the kind of "perspective-shattering experience that can't be found anywhere else," is what he feels has truly prepared him for the future.

The kind of true community that Hart found in her first days on campus is an attitude she wants to carry with her all her life.

She already has a position ready for her at Ernest & Young starting in October, and she knows it will be a shock going from a Christian community to a secular workplace.

Even so, she says with confidence that "one thing I think I'll take from Dordt and want to implement is a sense of community. You can have community with anyone, in your neighborhood and at work, and even when it's not explicitly with Christian people."

Hart hopes that her life will be a witness to her co-workers, and believes that seeing everyone around her as an image bearer of Christ and approaching them tactfully and with humility will be a challenge she can live up to and grow in even more as she leaves Dordt College.

"I feel confident in my knowledge and experience leaving Dordt"
- Nathan Friend



Senior Hannah Hart

Opinion

What is a journalist?



Adam McDonald
Head Editor

Journalism is possibly one of the most rewarding and stressful jobs someone can willingly thrust themselves into. On the one hand, you get to meet fantastic people and write stories that touch people's lives. On the other hand, you have schedule conflicts, time management issues, questions to ask, interviews to record, drafts to write, corrections to make, and final drafts to paste into the paper itself.

Journalism just doesn't happen overnight. The Diamond just doesn't magically form itself from nothing. This field is filled with dead batteries, broken pencils, blistered heels, and sometimes, tears.

But don't let me dissuade you from the positives of our field either. Being able to see your name in the paper, hearing people talk about an issue you wrote about, and even being able to just know you are doing what you are meant to do are reward enough. (And believe me, when you see how much we get paid, we better find a reward in our work more than just our paychecks). But that's just it. No one has ever said, "I want to be a journalist because the pay is fantastic." Lawyers say that. Athletes say that. Not us. Our desire is to simply report the truth so you know what's going on on your campus or hometown.

We have a strong conviction to report the facts so you can make your own conclusion. I think former BBC Chief News Correspondent Kate Adie said it perfectly: "I keep telling myself to calm down, to take less of an interest in things and not get so excited, but I still care a lot about liberty, freedom of speech and expression, and fairness in journalism." Perfect.

It's our desire to let you know what's happening here at Dordt. We only want you to be well informed so you know just what the faculty and staff are planning. This is your school too. Don't read it just for the Pizza Ranch Coupon and toss it away. The Diamond is our way, as students, to keep everyone in check, both students and staff, and above all else, to provide you with a sense of pride of knowing just what is happening in the world around you.

Don't read this paper for us. Read it for yourself.

Welcome back to Dordt. Now let's get to reporting.

I'm not in Iowa Anymore



Jennifer Van Der Hoek
Columnist

I woke up this morning feeling strange, like I was in some foreign place—one with no air-conditioning and sticky weather (an awful combination for someone who is already warm all the time). I grabbed my cell phone, checked the time, and saw that it was 5:50 a.m., and I had no cell phone signal. "Why on earth is my alarm going off?" I thought to myself as I reached to flip on the light switch that was no longer there. Suddenly it clicked: I'm not in Iowa anymore.

Not only am I not in Iowa, I am not in the United States. I am now located in the Dominican Republic, doing the first session of my student teaching at a Christian school here in Santiago. I came here with very few expectations and intended to leave with two things: 1) an awesome tan, and 2) the most incredible student teaching experience an undergrad career can offer. So far, I'm well on my way to both, thanks to the fact that I never wear a sweater, my boots, or sunscreen, and the ability to work with a variety of ages and learning needs with the ESL (English as a Second Language) department.

Santiago Christian is an international Pre-K through 12th grade school. Students are primarily Dominican or missionary/school staff children. Other nationalities represented include (but are definitely not limited to) Korean, Honduran, and Haitian. Students vary from native English speakers to struggling ESL students all across the grade levels. Some have learning

disabilities, some struggle with literacy in their native tongue—making it even more difficult to acquire a second (or third, in some cases) language. Not only do the students struggle, but so do the teachers—as many are North American and used to the 'Merican way. Meeting the needs of students will be a challenge wherever you go. However, when a school has so many ESL students and a turn-over employee rate higher than the commons at Dordt College, maintaining consistent standards and means to meet those needs proves itself extensively more difficult.

As an educator, I recognize my responsibility to meet the needs of my students, no matter how diverse they are, and it is my pleasure to do so—that is, when the needs are things the students can't help. For example, students can't help that teachers come and go every year, and they can't help that they may have some sort of learning disability. When the needs are self-induced (let's call it "laziness"), that's a different story. The

question I struggle with now: are any needs really self-induced, so to speak?

Many of the students at Santiago Christian come from extremely wealthy families: TV personalities, restaurant chain owners, businessmen, etc. The kids are brought to and from school by chauffeurs, brought a hot lunch from home at noon, and often have nannies after school. They see their parents for just a few moments a day, making it difficult to encourage practicing their English, or doing their homework, and making it easy for students to become passive in their school work. With the parents always gone, the nannies always taking care of other household responsibilities, the kids left with the iPads and iPhones their parents bought them, and the primary language spoken in the house is Spanish, it's easy to see why so many students are falling behind in an English-speaking school.

Knowing the home-life and culture of your students is important. No, it doesn't make motivating a seemingly lazy student any easier, but it does allow you to empathize with their situation. Being held accountable isn't something they may be used to, especially in English. It's important to remember that students need structure in the classroom, whether they receive it at home or not. A healthy balance of accountability and empathy is important, but it's extremely difficult, as I'm starting to see and understand here at SCS.

It's a New Year



Rachel Mulder
Columnist

Noise makers, sparkling grape juice (for those of us who aren't 21 yet), and Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve...these things are a part of many people's New Year's celebrations, and they're part of mine too. But they aren't the first things that come to my mind when I think of New Year's. What I can't help thinking of are the resolutions people make after their parties are over.

Yes, I am one of those people that make ridiculous resolutions that I am never able to keep. However, this year I've been doing pretty well: 31 days and I haven't had any pop!

Just for fun, here is a list of the top ten New Year's resolutions for 2013: lose weight, get organized, spend less and save more, enjoy life to the fullest, stay fit and healthy, learn something exciting, quit smoking, help others in their dreams, fall in love, and spend more time with family.

Now, the percent of Americans who usually make New Year's resolutions is only about 45%, but of that number only 8% of people are actually successful in achieving their resolution.

I don't think that making resolutions is a bad thing, but maybe we need to make resolutions that are a little more realistic. Resolutions are promises to resolve some negative aspect in your life. As Christians, I believe we should definitely make resolutions, as long as we continue to look to God for guidance. Because in the end, God has plans that are bigger than ours.

I was curious to see what other Christians thought of making New Year's resolutions and I came across a blog called justbetweenus.org. The author of this particular post wrote, "(Making resolutions) helps us remember that God is in control and that we are constantly growing as His children. He knows the plans He has for us; plans of new wisdom, insight, and understanding that He wants to impart to us if we will allow Him to."

It's the motivation behind the resolution that matters. Consider this: if your resolution is to get fit and/or lose weight, are you doing so in order to impress others or are you doing it because God created you and calls you to take care of your body.

Philippians 3:13-14 says, "Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Beating Sin



Alex Updike
Columnist

has everything to do with how much we love God. In John 14, Jesus makes it clear that those who love God will follow His commands. I mean, for crying out loud, He says it like three times in a row. Most professors won't even repeat notes that are going to be on tests that many times! So when the ultimate teacher repeats it, there is obviously some serious meaning there.

So if we know that our sinning stems from a lack of love for God, then the solution seems more obvious than the fact that I will one day marry Zooey Deschanel – we need to love God more. The only trouble with that solution is that it is impossible; we are incapable of loving God more on our own. As Francis Chan says in Crazy Love, "I need God's help to love God." So if you haven't tracked with me through this whole deal, the answer basically boils down to

this: God is the solution. Sorry for the Sunday school answer, but you can't avoid good ol' Gospel truth. When we sin, we don't necessarily show a lack of spiritual effort, but deep down a lack of love for God. And to solve this lack of love, we need the grace of God to move in our hearts and lives.

The realization of this truth is a huge step in faith. Because it means that when we sin, we realize that greater effort is not the key, it is going to the Cross for the grace needed to love our Savior more. Sure, I'm going to do my best as a human being to control my sinful impulses and desires as much as I can, but I am also going to realize that where I throw my lot is not with my own ability to control myself – that has proven to be a worse idea than vegetable pizza – but rather with God and the ability his grace and power have to allow me to further my love for Him and, consequently, my obedience to his loving commands.

Sports

Track season starts off strong

Athletes and Coaches are pumped for the new season and are ready for the challenges

Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

Coming off of a year of numerous all-conference and all-American performances last year, head coach Craig Heynan and his track and field crew are looking at another strong year. While Heynan focuses with the sprinters, returning assistant coaches Greg and Lorylin Van Dyk will work with the long distance and hurdlers, respectively, while new coach Jacob Chambers will be taking over as the throwers coach. Chambers is a recent graduate of Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, where he was a two time All-American in the weight toss for indoor, and the hammer throw for outdoor.

"Coach Chambers being our new coach is already doing phenomenal things for throwing program," said senior thrower Jordan Huisman. "As a whole group, everyone has already seen huge improvements from last year. Having

someone who has done what we're doing over the last four years, having that hands on experience makes all the difference."

The throwers aren't the only part of the team that's making strides, however. Already early in the season, multiple school records have been broken, and several runners are already qualifying for nationals. Senior Briana Vander Woude is no stranger to the national level and has already qualified for the women's 55 meter hurdles, high jump, long jump, and pentathlon, having marks in the top 10 in each event, and the top score in the pentathlon.

Junior Katie Bonnema has qualified in the women's 400, 600, and 800 meter runs, currently holding the top 600 meter time in the nation. Senior Ryan Tholen currently holds the number two time in the nation for his time in the



men's 1,000 meter run, and sophomore Lauren Opp has qualified in the women's 5,000 meter run. Finally, junior Erin Francis has hit B-standard for the national meet in the men's 55 meter hurdles.

Two women's relays have also reached national standards. The women's 4x400 meter race consisting of

Bonnema, freshmen Siera Wilgenburg and Marisa Broersma, and senior Tara Postma and 4x800 meter race consisting of Bonnema, senior Merissa Harkema, and sophomores Whitney Wilgenburg and Lillie Koerner both qualified this past weekend at Buena Vista.

This weekend both the men and women's team

go back to Buena Vista this weekend for the Dennis Young Indoor Classic. The GPAC championship meet will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska February 15 and 16, while the NAIA Championship meet will take place February 28-March 2 in Geneva, Ohio.

Hockey season to wrap-up

Jordan Harmelink - Staff Writer

The Dordt Blades are experiencing another difficult season thanks in part to a harsh schedule and lack of experience on the ice. With only two games to go this weekend against the University of South Dakota, the Blades find themselves with a 3-16 record.

"The MACHA [Mid-America College Hockey Association] is comprised of teams whose players have a lot of experience. And that is not a luxury we have," said Dordt College Blades coach Bill Elgersma. "Therefore, everything is an education and transfer takes time. Patience continues to be a necessary component of our success as I look forward."

With only seven home games all year, including the home finale this Friday against USD at 7:30p.m., the Blades have struggled to find consistency on the ice. However, Elgersma has seen some positives from his squad over the course of the season.

"The win at home against Colorado was probably the most consistent demonstration of our potential all year. We played aggressive hockey for 60 minutes with a positive result," he said.

Though the last two sea-

sons have been campaigns the Blades may not want to remember, the future looks bright for next year's squad as put on display by the under classmen, highlighted by their play against Iowa State this season.

"We had a rookie line playing defense on a regular rotation and they held their own. That is impressive," Elgersma said.

The Blades will say good-bye to only two seniors on the squad: Brandon Fast and Eric Walter and will close the door on this season on Saturday. Coach Elgersma believes that next year's squad will be much improved thanks to the experience his young squad is attaining this year.

"Of our recent seasons, we have been punished most for our mistakes this season and as a result have become a smarter and better hockey team—seasoned," he said. "I expect this team to be in a much better position next year because of this experience."

Ask an Athlete

Name: Kayla Broekhuis
Class Year: Junior
Major: Exercise Science – Physical Therapy
Sports Involved: Volleyball and Basketball
Positions: Back row and guard.
Where are you from? Edgerton, MN

How did you first become involved in sports?
My family has always been very active and loves sports so I have always been around sports. I have been playing sports since I could start.

Why did you come to Dordt?
I came to Dordt because I liked the environment and all that Dordt had to offer.

Strictly with sports, of your three years, what's been your favorite events that have happened?
For volleyball, my favorite highlights took place this year when we had a long stretch of 5 game matches and always came out with the win! Plus, the highlight of beating Northwestern here and there :) Without a doubt, I would say that my favorite highlight for basketball was taking down number one nationally-ranked Concordia in double overtime, giving them their first loss of the season. It was the most exciting and nerve-racking game I have ever played in.
Favorite professor at Dordt and why?
My favorite professor is Andy



Kayla Broekhuis, Junior

Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

Schuttinga, who taught my Psych 204 class freshman year. I respected the fact that he knew what he was teaching and taught it. Plus, he is just a funny man.

What is the first thing you would change at Dordt?
I would change Covenant back to co-ed dorms like they used to be. It would add a lot more fun and save many people from cold walks.

A word of advice to the freshmen?
My favorite quote is from John Wooden who says, "Make each day your master piece." This means focusing on what you are doing right now to the best of your ability. It is about recognizing that nothing can be done about what happened yesterday, and that you can only affect what will happen tomorrow by what you do today.

What event in history would you go back in time to see?
I would witness the sinking of the Titanic, because seeing a

big ship going down like that would be crazy . . . as long as I can witness it from a lifeboat.

What is the first thing you would you do if you had no financial restrictions?
Without question, I would travel the world and see as many different places as I could.

What is the number 1 song played in your iTunes?
Recently I have been listening to the Pitch Perfect soundtrack. It's kind of a favorite amongst my friends.

Five things on your bucket list:
Go sky diving, again.
Vacation in Australia.
Swim with dolphins.
Travel around Europe.
Bungee Jump.

Even though it's always subject to change, what are your current plans after your time at Dordt is over?
I am one of those lucky people that picked a major with extra schooling, so after Dordt I plan to attend graduate school and receive my degree in Physical Therapy.

Arts and Entertainment

Almost edible art

Art Professor Matt Drissel uses food as his paintbrush in his latest collection



Adam McDonald
Head Editor

Artists of all varieties have unique ways of seeing beauty where others may not and whether it is abstract,

cubism, or impressionism as their style, in the right hands anything can become art, even food. Assistant Professor of Art, Matt Drissell, has been working on his most recent

Photo by Emily McFarland collection of art works based off of various foods titled, “Shelf Life.” “My wife and I think a lot about food since our youngest daughter was born ten years ago. We started notic-

ing labels and ingredients and think through ‘what are we offering our newborn daughter?’”, said Drissel. “And that’s continued over the years.” For instance, for one of his pieces, Drissel started with mint chocolate chip, mixed ice cream with polyurethane, and let it drop onto the panel. “I started this summer so I thought of summer foods like popsicles. At one point, I had some caramel sauce and realized when you pour it out it is slow and when it hits, it makes spirally loops and it’s just beautiful. I wondered if I could make that permanent.” His entire display took him about six months to complete. “I started last summer and was working up to a few days before they were installed,” Drissel said. “Part of the process was to keep some simpler,” Drissel said when asked about his

various methods. “I wanted some to be straightforward. Like the way the sugar and other stuff solidified, I really enjoyed. I had to squash the peanut butter by hand. I heated it to a liquid, but by the time I got ready to pour it, it already solidified so I had to roll it up and press it down by hand.” And working with food as your main source of material can make things quite messy. “I have a studio, but I haven’t cleaned that up,” Drissel said. “Eventually I moved to the basement in December because the ice cream wouldn’t melt, but it’s also a mess. Everything is a mess.” But he is excited and looking forward to the open house for his collection this Friday, February 1 on campus. “The open house should be nice. It will be a fun on-campus cultural event.”

Winterreise Performance

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

On Saturday, January 26, Dordt College hosted Russell Svenningsen, assistant professor of music at Augustana College, to perform Franz Schubert’s Winterreise. Winterreise was composed by Franz Schubert, native of Austria, and set to poems by Johann Ludwig Wilhelm Müller, native of Germany. These 24 poems were written in German, the same language in which they were sung. Svenningsen sang with great volume and expression as he performed these pieces. Svenningsen is no stranger to the field of music. He

has his doctorate in music education from Boston University, a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor of Music from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Svenningsen has been traveling through the Midwest presenting this German song cycle with his accompanist, Donna Reid.



Technical Director Jeni Kanis

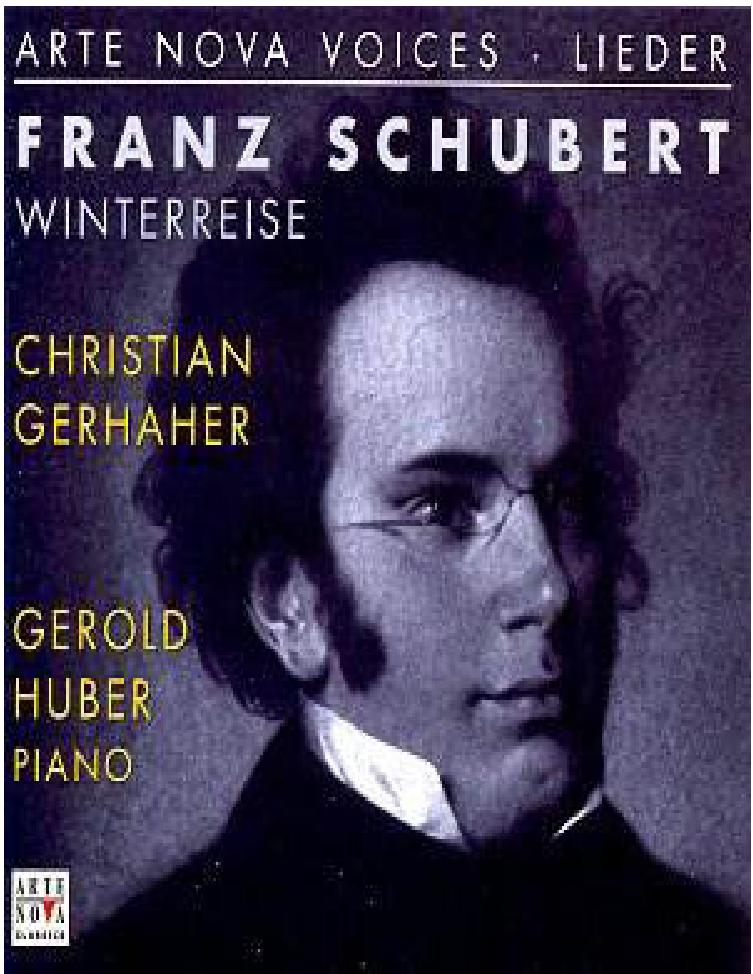
Dordt hires new Technical Director

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Every year, hundreds of new students file onto Dordt’s campus and into the classrooms. A few more usually come at the semester break, causing mass amounts of housing confusion and interesting personality conflicts that arise with new roommates. But students aren’t the only ones that are new to campus, even after the utopia of Christmas break. Jeni Kanis, a recent graduate of Dordt’s social work program, has now come back to work in Dordt’s theater department as the program’s Technical Director. It is a very important role, as Dordt has two upcoming plays this semester, needing brand new sets. But Kanis is not without theatrical experience. “I came here as a student, and I loved

working in the theater department, especially in the scene shop,” Kanis said. Kanis has a past with Dordt, a familiarity with the way the theater department works, and the enjoyment she had while going here. “As a student and now a staff person, I have always appreciated that professors and staff take time for students and each other,” Kanis said. “I think this attention to relationships within the learning environment encourages student growth that would not come just from reading a textbook.” And it is this very attitude that makes the theater department, and Dordt in general, such a great place to be as a student. Professors take the time to invest in students and make their education worthwhile, and Kanis understands this, making her a wonderful addition to

the faculty and staff already living out those ideals here on campus. But even though Kanis may be busy with sets for Dordt’s productions of both “The Miracle Worker” and “Little Shop of Horrors,” she still has post-Dordt plans. “After this semester, I plan to move to the Minneapolis area, get married, and begin working professionally to gain even more experience. I hope to work in the field of social work and use what I have learned from theater to inform my work.” So even though she may not be here long, Dordt and its theater program are welcoming Kanis with open arms as she works alongside students for the next few months.



Stock Photo

Amusements

Feature Photo



Photo by Emily McFarland

Dordt College Word Search:

Can you find them all?

S Y T G Q Y Y S R U H N R A U
D O R D T C O L L E G E P A Q
B U O X V D S A U N F Z O Z U
X B B H A F H R G O E S I X F
Y O J R T N Z U R A O E D N I
X T H E C O M M O N S E L T O
B H A P S D E A B O K M L R M
Q C A Y I D K R U R R A V C Z
I J N U B L D T H T N F S K W
G L V K E Z H N U H H W E U D
L N P D R V E I J H H Y L Q O
X R T F I G E H T A A M H E R
F G Y E A S T H A L L U A Q R
C M W E S T H A L L E L T B C
A H W Q Z C Q A U W B W E M H

BJHAAN
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KDCR
REFORMED
THECOMMONS
XBOX

EASTHALL
KUYPER
SIBERIA
THEGIFT

Redbox Review: Pitch Perfect

Hannah DeVries
Co-Editor

Rating: 6/10

Memorable Line: I'm doing horizontal running!

That one girl. I recognize her from somewhere. She's really familiar...its like she's been in a ton of movies before but I can't remember what. Oh yes, a random character from *Twilight* is back and has landed herself a great role in a newly released hit. *Pitch Perfect* is reminiscent of many other underdog stories we've seen in the past; just pick any of the *Step Up* movies.

Pitch Perfect does stand out well on its own however. With a plot that looks overall like *Joyful Noise* meets *Bridesmaids* meets *Glee*, it focuses on new college freshman Beca, an independent DJ who is looking to fulfill her father's wishes of attending college to make a future for herself.

But this instantly loveable main character has plenty of her own ideas. And after getting practically drafted into the all-female a capella group on campus, she takes it upon herself to help the so-called "Bellas" forget the past and create a new musical future with her

own original beats and mash-ups, budding romance with a member of the rival all-male a capella group notwithstanding.

While the main plot of the movie culminates in a final competition between the two singing groups, it is the personality of the characters and their own stories that really makes this movie worth watching. We all know that Fat Amy (the same actor also starring in *Bridesmaids*) pretty much steals the show. The real humor of the movie is built off the sexual humor and outrageous one- liners you can't help but laugh at, and wonder how the actors delivering them are keeping themselves from cracking a smile.

Overall, this movie is perfect for a night in with friends. This movie doesn't hold back, so be sure you're around the kind of friends you aren't afraid to do the same around when it comes to incredibly outrageous, slightly weird, but totally hilarious humor. This humor is what carries the movie, along with a plot and matching characters that are worth sticking with and rooting for all the way to the end.



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